

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR HANDLING ARRAYED COMPONENTS

**(Rule 1.53(b) Divisional
of Serial No. 10/069,401,
Filed February 26, 2002)**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. A legible copy of each reference listed on the Form PTO-1449 is enclosed, except a copy is not provided for each U.S. Patent and U.S. Patent application publication (*for U.S. National applications filed after June 30, 2003 and International applications that have entered U.S. National Stage after June 30, 2003*), further, a copy is not provided for each reference previously cited by or submitted to the Patent Office in prior parent application Serial No. 10/069,401.

1a. [X] This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, or

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

- 1b. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted
after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action
or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application,
and thus:
(1) the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**
(2) the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.
- 1c. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:
after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which
otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and
thus:
the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and
the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.
2. It is hereby certified
- a. that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement
was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart
foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement,
or
 - b. that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was
cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign
application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after
making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c)
more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.
3. Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or
abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:
- a. a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,
 - b. a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith for references AA-AB,
 - c. the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page ,
 - d. the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstracts (previously cited in an IDS filed February 26, 2002),
 - e. the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:

References **AM** and **AN** (i.e. Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 4-63442 and Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 9-283983) are cited in the Written Opinion which was previously filed with the PTO on February 26, 2002).

5. A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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March 22, 2004

| FORM PTO 1449 (<i>modified</i>) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> Date Submitted to PTO: March 22, 2004 | | | ATTY DOCKET NO. 2004_0426 | | SERIAL NO. NEW | | |
|--|----|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| | | | APPLICANT Satoshi SHIDA et al. | | | | |
| | | | FILING DATE March 22, 2004 | | GROUP | | |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
| | AA | 4,627,787 | 12/1986 | Bond et al. | | | |
| | AB | 4,749,329 | 6/1988 | Stout | | | |
| | AC | 6,461,938 | 10/2002 | Nakabayashi | | | |
| | AD | 5,362,681 | 11/1994 | Roberts et al. | | | |
| | AE | 6,482,677 | 11/2002 | Sato et al. | | | |
| | AF | 6,171,933 | 1/2001 | Xu et al. | | | |
| | AG | 2003/0060021 | 3/2003 | Kurosawa et al. | | | |
| | AH | | | | | | |
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES NO |
| | AI | 60-161630 | 8/1985 | JP | | | Abstr. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | AJ | 10-270532 | 10/1998 | JP | | | Abstr. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | AK | 11-8259 | 1/1999 | JP | | | Abstr. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | AL | 7-221164 | 8/1995 | JP | | | Abstr. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | AM | 4-63442 | 2/1992 | JP | | | Abstr. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | AN | 9-283983 | 10/1997 | JP | | | Abstr. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | AO | 45-29862 | 9/1970 | JP | | | X <input type="checkbox"/> |
| OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (<i>Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.</i>) | | | | | | | |
| | AP | Microfilm of the specification and drawings annexed to the request of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 137692/1986 (Laid-open No. 42506/1988) (NEC Corporation), 22 March 1988. | | | | | |
| EXAMINER | | | | DATE CONSIDERED | | | |

**EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of form with next communication to applicant.*